

Torrance, California
March 14, 1944

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, March 14, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 23, 1944, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Southern California Gas Company submitting statement showing earnings for period January 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943 under Franchise Ordinance No. 322, and enclosing their check in amount of \$5,688.30. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Southern California Edison Company submitting statement of earnings for one year ending December 31, 1943 under Franchise Ordinance No. 204, and enclosing their check in amount of \$1,567.70. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Shell Oil Company submitting statement of earnings for year ending December, 1943 under Franchise Ordinance Nos. 116, 121 and 174, and enclosing check in amount of \$385.78. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, Chairman, Torrance Youth Commission, stating that WALTERIA is without adequate recreational facilities and recommending that the City of Torrance construct upon city owned lots in WALTERIA, one basketball court, two badminton courts and furnish the necessary equipment; and further recommending the installation of night lighting equipment upon said grounds - the cost not to exceed \$300.00, said amount to be appropriated from the Youth Commission Fund of \$1500.00 already allocated by the Council.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of Reverend Wheeler for an appropriation of \$300.00 from the Youth Commission Fund for the construction of recreational facilities and equipment in WALTERIA be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. J. O. Bishop complaining about the poor service rendered by the City in collecting garbage and rubbish.

Councilman Babcock moved that the complaint be turned over to Mr. Green, who is under contract with the City for the collection of tin cans and garbage. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from C. Z. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, recommending that the request of the Aluminum Company of America to terminate their contract with the City for bus service, between Redondo Beach area and their plant, be granted as of March 18, 1944.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request of the Aluminum Company of America for cancellation of their contract be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation, addressed to Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager, Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, approving and granting authority to discontinue routing from the intersection of Hoover and Imperial to the intersection of Vermont and Imperial; and from the intersection of Figueroa and Imperial to the intersection of Broadway and Imperial and to establish in lieu thereof through service to Olympic and Hill Streets over regular route. Matter of record.

A copy of communication was read from the Board of Public Utilities and Transportation, addressed to the Board of Police Commissioners, with reference to request of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines

for change of Northerly terminal and rerouting and establishment of zones, and requesting that the newly established zones be properly painted and marked and that the old bus zone on the west side of Hill Street, South of Olympic Blvd., be obliterated. Matter of record.

At 8:00 P.M. Clerk Bartlett opened bid from The Texas Company, being bid for franchise and privilege heretofore applied for by said corporation, and fully described in Resolution No. 1631 adopted by the City Council January 25, 1944. A certified check in amount of \$100.00 accompanied the bid for franchise as per notice of sale published in the Torrance Herald on the 27th day of January, 1944, and on the 3rd, 10th and 17th days of February, 1944.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the bid from The Texas Company be accepted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1644

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SELLING
AND AWARDDING FRANCHISE AND APPROVING BOND.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1644 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 351

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE,
CALIFORNIA, GRANTING TO THE TEXAS COMPANY,
A DELAWARE CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO LAY,
CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, OPERATE, REPAIR, RE-
NEW, CHANGE THE SIZE OF, AND REMOVE A PIPE
LINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PETROLEUM,
OIL, AND LIQUID HYDROCARBON PRODUCTS THERE-
OF, IN, UNDER, ALONG AND ACROSS CERTAIN
PUBLIC STREETS, HIGHWAYS AND ALLEYS IN SAID
CITY.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 351 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Ordinance No. 351 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mr. Joel Hagberg advocating increases in salary for all City employees.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joe B. Winn requesting permission to move a trailer next to his house, located on 168th Street, North Torrance, for sleeping purposes only.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Mr. Winn be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Marie B. Kendall of 2395 Lime Avenue, Long Beach, California, complaining of the overgrown weeds in Hollywood Riviera, with particular reference to her property located at 279 Linda Vista.

After some discussion on the conditions and care of the Streets in the Hollywood Riviera area, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the complaint of Mrs. Kendall be referred to the City Engineer for action and that he report at the next Council Meeting on condition of streets in that district. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried.

A communication was read from H. E. Garner and H. E. Appenzellar requesting removal of a eucalyptus tree in the alley at the rear of 1420 Acacia Street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request for the removal of a eucalyptus tree be referred to the City Engineer for report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the League of California Cities announcing California Community Planning Institutes to be held March 13-17, 1944, Room 804, City Hall, Los Angeles, and sponsored by the League of California Cities and The American Municipal Association. Referred to Council as a whole.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers concerning a certain tax settlement on a large group of properties within this city that have been delinquent for many years, and which are still under injunction prohibiting them from being sold at tax sale except subject to stipulation by the property owners. Two ways to handle this matter were set forth - one, on a cash basis which would effectuate a recovery of 99.35 percent of the total amount of delinquent city taxes, and the other on a pro-rata basis which would effectuate a recovery of 84 percent of the total city taxes delinquent.

After some discussion, Mayor McGuire moved that the Associated Assessment Engineers be instructed to proceed to acquire Tax Deeds for the City of Torrance covering all parcels owned by Huntington Redondo Land Company (approximately 273 parcels) located in the City of Torrance in Tracts numbered 10300, 10302, 10303, 10304, 10307 and 8875; to be acquired pursuant to the provisions of Division 1, Part 6, Chapter 8, Articles 1 and 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California, Sections 3804, 3803, 3807.5, 3807.8, 3793.5 and 3793.6 thereof, known as Chapter #294. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1645

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1645 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1646

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1646 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1647

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1561, BY THE CHANGING OF DATES IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF SECTION "V", EFFECTIVE MARCH 21, 1944.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1647 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 352

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE PROVIDING FOR TAKING UP, DISPOSING OF, AND SELLING LOST AND ABANDONED PROPERTY, AND FOR DISPOSING OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY.

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 352 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 353

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGULATING THE KEEPING OF POULTRY AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND AMENDING SECTION NO. 5, PARAGRAPH NO. 2 OF ORDINANCE NO. 316 (OFFICIAL LAND USE PLAN AND MAP.)

Councilman Cucci moved that Ordinance No. 353 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The request of Mr. William Misselhorn, 214 So. Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach, for a refund on his business license, expiring August 8, 1944, was read at a meeting held February 23, 1944 and referred for action at this time.

Councilman Babcock moved that a refund on the unexpired portion of business license issued Mr. Misselhorn and expiring August 8, 1944, be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci discussed the question of ordinances he wished to bring up, but said he could not get in touch with the City Attorney and stated that something should be done about the Legal Department of the City. He stated that complaints had been received from many citizens that they could get no help from the Legal Department.

Councilman Cucci suggested that a girl be employed, and moved that Mrs. Deininger, now being employed in the office of the City Clerk, spend four hours a day in the Legal Department without any interruption during that time; also that Mr. McCall, the City Attorney, maintain office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 12 noon, daily and attend regular meetings.

Councilman Cucci stated further that it seemed there were quite a few ordinances and a few franchises that need to be brought up to date but the attorney could not be contacted.

At this time Clerk Bartlett addressed the Council stating that his office had endeavored to help out Mr. McCall in his need for a stenographer, but protested in having Mrs. Deininger work four hours a day in the Legal Department as this arrangement would disrupt the routine of his office and impede the work which had increased greatly during this war emergency. Councilman Cucci remarked that the work of the girls in the City Clerk's office was being charged to Mr. McCall's office. Clerk Bartlett objected to this remark.

Clerk Bartlett, who mentioned that he knew of the office needs in the Legal Department, declared that Mr. McCall required the services of a full time secretary for a period of six or seven months and hoped the Council would authorize such employment. Councilman Cucci agreed with Clerk Bartlett, but in the interest of economy had suggested a part time stenographer.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. McCall be authorized to hire a stenographer for the City Attorney's office for a period of at least four months. Councilman Powell seconded the motion. The motion was not acted upon.

At this time Clerk Bartlett explained that according to the Civil Service Rules the Council has authority to employ help for a period of ninety days, and then request the Civil Service Board to hold competitive examinations so that temporary employees might have an opportunity to become eligible for permanent positions. Councilman Powell concurred.

Councilman Cucci moved that the Council employ a stenographer or clerk for the Attorney's office for approximately ninety days at the minimum salary of \$125.00. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. McCall maintain office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 A.M. daily and attend regular meetings.

Discussions on this question then followed and Councilman Powell seconded Councilman Cucci's motion with the understanding that definite hours be set when the public and the Council can get in touch with the City Attorney when necessary; but that he would be allowed to absent himself when court cases required his presence.

Mr. McCall addressed the Council stating that he could not understand how Mr. Cucci arrived at the conclusion that he could not be found; that he was always willing to meet with the Council at any time. He declared he was herein the mornings and came to the office at night; that from his office in Los Angeles he transacted much of the City business, and specifically mentioned some matters, leaving little time for his own work. He brought out the fact that through his efforts the City had collected monies due from various companies which would be a source of revenue for a long time. He said that the City Attorney could not have regular hours but that he would always be available to the Council, day or night. However, he did agree that he was very much in need of a secretary.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the question of office hours for the City Attorney be postponed until Councilman Cucci and the City Attorney had an opportunity to discuss the matter further.

Councilman Cucci then withdrew his motion and Councilman Powell withdrew his second.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$111.30, plus tax, be made for the purchase of one Union Metal street light pole and one Marblelite street light pole. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$125.00, plus tax, be made for brake lining for stock, for use on all City equipment. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$175.00 be reauthorized for road materials for surfacing of Border Avenues, from Lincoln Avenue to alley South of Plaza del Amo. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$175.00 be reauthorized for road materials for surfacing of Arlington Avenue Parkway from Plaza del Amo to Santa Fe Railway tracks. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$150.00 be reauthorized for the surfacing of a portion of Abalone Avenue, adjacent to the new curb and gutter constructed by Doak Aircraft Company. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The above three appropriations were originally contained in a blanket authorization for improvement covering, among others, the above-mentioned streets.

After some discussion of the condition of Torrance Boulevard, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to prepare plans and estimates for a partial resurfacing of Torrance Boulevard, between Madrid Avenue and Sartori Avenue, to the maximum amount of improvement allowed by the War Production Board at this time. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was

carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock asked the City Engineer regarding the status of Greshaw Boulevard. He was informed that plans and specifications had been completed in October, 1943 and approved by the State Highway Department at that time, but the project was not approved by the War Production Board until December 18, 1943; and the work is necessarily held up until weather and soil conditions permit construction in that area.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$64.58, inclusive of tax, be made for the purchase of two spring assemblies from the Crown Body & Coach Corporation for busses #101 and #102. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation not to exceed \$125.00 be made for the purchase of one Johnson fare box for the Municipal Bus Lines. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci made reference to a race track for miniature automobiles, which matter had been brought before the Council by Mr. A. W. Finch, 1005 Sartori Avenue, at a meeting held January 25, 1944.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Engineer be authorized to get in touch with Mr. Finch on this matter; to obtain estimates on the cost of operation and to locate a suitable place for this track. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At this time Reverend Paul M. Wheeler, Chairman, Torrance Youth Commission stated he believed such an enterprise would contribute something to recreation but was not in favor of spending any of the Commission's funds on such a project.

Mayor Darby of Inglewood, who was in the audience, informed the Council he was a candidate for supervisor in the coming election. Mayor McGuire welcomed him to the meeting and thanked him for his short address.

A communication was read from Torrance Industries Tax Committee, by Mr. R. I. Plomert, Jr., Chairman, which accompanied a survey from the California Taxpayers' Association of the City of Torrance. Matter of record.

Mayor McGuire moved that the Civil Service Board be authorized to conduct examinations for stenographer-clerk. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire made reference to the Transportation Survey and Report for the Torrance Industrial area and the City of Torrance compiled by Mr. Charles F. Koors, who presented his bill in amount of \$600.00, less \$100.00 already advanced, for this survey.

Mayor McGuire moved that \$500.00 be paid Mr. Charles F. Koors for his services. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock thanked Mr. Koors for his excellent work. Mr. Koors said the matter should be gone into more thoroughly and would be pleased to meet with the Council at any time.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Charles Elman addressed the Council with reference to certain tax deeded lots.

Mr. Joel Hagberg asked Councilman Cucci to clarify Ordinance No. 353, read earlier in the meeting, as it pertained to Zoning Ordinance No. 316.

Mr. Charles Koors requested a meeting with the Council for the purpose of further discussing the transportation question. Mayor McGuire replied that a special meeting could be arranged.

Chief of Police John H. Stroh stated that the city employees were in favor of joining the State Retirement Act and that he had been appointed as Chairman to act in their behalf. He said the City Attorney had informed him the procedure necessary to join the State Retirement Act, and asked Mr. McCall to explain it to the Council.

Mr. McCall then gave the Council a brief outline of the Act and the necessary steps to be taken by the City to join the State Retirement Act. He advised that the first step would be to have an actuarial survey made and determine from the State System the name of the actuarial acceptable to them, then obtain from the actuarial the cost of the survey. When this information has been obtained the Council could then decide whether it desired to spend such amount of money.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney obtain the name of the actuarial acceptable to the State System and the cost of a survey for the City of Torrance and report to the Council. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett read a communication from the City Engineer requesting that a resolution be written covering request for State aid for Civilian Defense expenditures and the appointment of a duly authorized official to sign such application for State aid, and recommending that the Civilian Defense Coordinator be authorized to prepare and sign these applications. No action was taken.

With reference to the request of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for assurance from the City that if they remove their three tracks across Madrona Avenue they be permitted to cross it again at some later date, City Attorney McCall referred to Ordinance No. 143, Section 2, Paragraph 1, granting said company the right to lay, etc. tracks across certain public highways, streets, or alleys in the City of Torrance. Mr. McCall expressed the opinion that if the company removed any tracks they would have the same right to lay them down again.

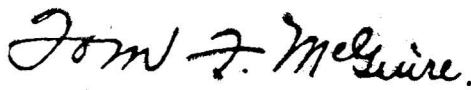
After considerable discussion, Councilman Cucci moved that the above request and the interpretation of Ordinance No. 143 be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 10:23 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE